

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 13, second paragraph, lines 9-10, please amend the following paragraphs:

Figure 2 shows the CD34 and CD38 antigen expression of G0 (Figure 2A) and G1 (Figure 2B) sorted cells sorted by FACS.

Fourth paragraph, lines 14-15, amend as follows:

Figure 4 shows the DNA/RNA content and cell cycle status of sorted CD34⁺⁺⁺CD38⁻ (Figure 4A) and CD34⁺⁺⁺CD38⁺ (Figure 4B) cells.

Fifth paragraph, lines 16-18, amend as follows:

Figure 5 shows the PKH26 analysis of sorted G0 CD34 (Figure 5A, 5C and 5E) and G1 CD34 (Figure 5B, 5D and 5F) cells at Day 0 (5A, 5B), Day 1 (5C, 5D), and Day 7 (5E, 5F) of culture in the presence of cytokines.

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Sixth paragraph, lines 19-21, amend as follows:

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Figure 6 shows the PKH26 analysis of sorted CD34⁺⁺⁺CD38⁻ (Figures 6A, 6C and 6E) and CD34⁺⁺⁺CD38⁺ (Figures 6B, 6D and 6F) cells at Day 0 (6A, 6B), Day 7 (6C, 6D), and Day 14 (6E, 6F) of culture in the presence of cytokines.

Page 14, second full paragraph, lines 9-23, please amend as follows:

In order to perform the method, low cytokine (IL-3, IL-6 and ~~granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulation~~ stem cell factor (~~GM-CSF~~) (SCF) levels are important. The higher the cytokine levels the more the cells are stimulated to undergo mitosis. Too

low a level can result in cell death, however. Using the inventive method, it is therefore advantageous to use cytokine levels of no greater than about 15 ng/ml IL-3, 15 ng/ml IL-6 and 1.5 ng/ml ~~granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating~~ stem cell factor. Preferably levels between 1-15 ng/ml IL-3, 1-15 ng/ml IL-6 and 0.1-1.5 ng/ml stem cell factor ~~GM-CSF~~. More preferably, cytokines are present at 5-10 ng/ml IL-3, 5-10 ng/ml IL-6 and 0.5-1 ng/ml stem cell factor ~~GM-CSF~~. The most preferred cytokine levels are 10 ng/ml IL-3, 10 ng/ml IL-6 and 1 ng/ml stem cell factor ~~GM-CSF~~.